commission, which escaped attention in the Huzur for want of a professional o... He therefore urged the need for appointing an Engineer-Secretary in the Huz... Office. He next complained that, for ordinary works, the department used to submit three estimates, the cost being greater in the supplemental estimates and still greater in the final memo of costs.

He next said that, as far as Central Travancore was concerned, he was certain that the maintenance of the village roads was not in the least beneficial to the people, because no money was actually spent on the roads. He advocated the desirability of discontinuing the maintenance of village roads and applying the savings for converting a few of them into cart-roads gradually.

He then pressed on the attention of the Government the question of the establishment of taluk and village boards and the desirability of entrusting those boards with a good portion of the minor works now executed by the Public Works Department, together with the funds allotted for such works.

The Member proposed that the whole State might be divided into five P. W. Divisions: *viz.* from Cape Comorin to Neyyattinkara, including the Kodayar Works, one division; from Neyyattinkara to Attungal, including the Trivandrum town, one division; from Attungal to Kottayam, with the head-quarters at Mavelikara, one division; and the remaining portion, one division. The fifth division would be the Workshop Division. He thought that the canals might be placed under the Workshop Engineer. The maistries of the department might also be made permanent.

In conclusion, the Member said that the prayer of the people of the Karunagapalli taluk for roads did not so far receive the attention of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

62. Some defects of the Public Works Department and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. P. C. Krishna Pillai (Member, Vaikam taluk) said that it was regrettable that the prayers of the Members for roads and bridges were refused on the ground of want of funds, while the cost on account of establishment in the department had been steadily increasing from Rs. 2,87,760 in 1085 to Rs. 4,64,588 in 10... The staff in the department was capable of considerable reduction. The allotment on works was mainly devoted to the construction of costly buildings in the town. The provision in the estimates for a profit of 15% to the contractors who executed the works would give the Government some idea of the wastage of money. Costly wells were erected by the department at certain places and the works turned out to be utterly useless for want of adequate knowledge of local conditions on the part of the officers concerned. He quoted the instance of the outlets to drain off the *Kaa*... from the Vaikam temple and the impure water from the temple tank, which were constructed at a cost of Rs. 25,000. The outlets were not in working order. The Member suggested that it would be better if the people of the locality were consulted before such works were constructed. He then said that the travellers' bungalow at Shertalay and the additional buildings proposed at Arukutti were unnecessary.

In conclusion, he said that the use of Portland cement had raised the cost of buildings and it might be replaced with advantage by timber from the State forests.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

63. The desirability of a change in the method of distributing the funds allotted to the Public Works Department.

Mr. P. Sankara Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) said that the annual allotment for the Public Works Department was not equitably distributed among the various taluks of the State. The people of Central and North Travancore were always complaining that they were not having useful public works constructed for them. He suggested that it was desirable to allot, for each taluk, amounts proportionate...

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